

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

COREY WELLS,	)	8:09CV113
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b>MEMORANDUM</b>
	)	<b>AND ORDER</b>
ROBERT HOUSTON,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

This matter is before the court on Petitioner’s Motion for Certificate of Appealability, Motion for Leave to Appeal in Forma Pauperis (“IFP”) and Motion to Amend Motion for Certificate of Appealability. (Filing Nos. [28](#), [32](#) and [33](#).) On December 17, 2009, the court dismissed Petitioner’s habeas corpus claims with prejudice and entered judgment against him. (Filing Nos. [20](#) and [21](#).) Petitioner thereafter filed a timely Notice of Appeal.<sup>1</sup> (Filing No. [27](#).)

***I. Motion for Leave to Appeal In Forma Pauperis***

Petitioner is a prisoner who has previously been granted leave to proceed IFP. (Filing No. [5](#).) [Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24\(a\)\(3\)](#) states:

(a) Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis ....

(3) Prior Approval. A party who was permitted to proceed in forma pauperis in the district-court action, or who was determined to be financially unable to obtain an adequate defense in a criminal case, may proceed on appeal in forma pauperis without further authorization,

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<sup>1</sup>Petitioner’s January 4, 2010, Motion for Reconsideration (filing no. [22](#)) tolled his time to appeal. See [Fed. R.App. P. 4\(a\)\(1\), \(a\)\(4\)\(A\)\(iv\)](#) (timely Rule 59(e) motion tolls 30-day time limit to file appeal until entry of order disposing of motion).

unless the district court—before or after the notice of appeal is filed—certifies that the appeal is not taken in good faith or finds that the party is not otherwise entitled to proceed in forma pauperis and states in writing its reasons for the certification or finding[.]

*Id.* Because Petitioner was previously given leave to proceed IFP, he may now “proceed on appeal in forma pauperis without further authorization” in accordance with [Fed. R. App. P. 24\(a\)\(3\)](#).

## *II. Motion for Certificate of Appealability*

Before a petitioner may appeal the dismissal of a petition for writ of habeas corpus, a “Certificate of Appealability” must issue. Pursuant to the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (“AEDPA”), the right to appeal such a dismissal is governed by [28 U.S.C. § 2253\(c\)](#), which states:

(c)(1) Unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability, an appeal may not be taken to the court of appeals from—

(A) the final order in a habeas corpus proceeding in which the detention complained of arises out of process issued by a State court; ....

(2) A certificate of appealability may issue under paragraph (1) only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

(3) The certificate of appealability under paragraph (1) shall indicate which specific issue or issues satisfy the showing required by paragraph (2).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Similarly, [Fed. R. App. P. 22\(b\)](#), as amended by AEDPA, indicates that in an action pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#), a notice of appeal triggers the requirement that the district judge who rendered the judgment either issue a certificate of appealability

A certificate of appealability may issue only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. See [28 U.S.C. § 2253\(c\)\(2\)](#). Such a showing requires a demonstration “that reasonable jurists could debate whether (or, for that matter, agree that) the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented were adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further.” [Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 \(2000\)](#) (internal quotation marks omitted) (citing [Barefoot v. Estelle, 463 U.S. 894 \(1983\)](#) (defining pre-AEDPA standard for a certificate of probable cause to appeal)).

“Where a district court has rejected the constitutional claims on the merits, the showing required to satisfy § 2253(c) is straightforward: The petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court’s assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong.” [Slack, 529 U.S. at 484](#). Similarly, if the district court denies a petition for writ of habeas corpus on procedural grounds without reaching the underlying constitutional claims on the merits:

[A] COA should issue when the prisoner shows, at least, that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right and . . . would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling . . . . Where a plain procedural bar is present and the district court is correct to invoke it to dispose of the case, a reasonable jurist could not conclude either that the district court erred in dismissing the petition or that the petitioner should be allowed to proceed further. In such a circumstance, no appeal would be warranted.

*Id.*

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or state the reasons why such a certificate should not issue. See generally [Tiedeman v. Benson, 122 F.3d 518, 521 \(8th Cir. 1997\)](#).

As discussed above, Petitioner has filed a Motion to Amend Motion for Certificate of Appealability. (Filing No. [33](#).) The court will grant this Motion and consider it as supplemental to his original Motion for Certificate of Appealability. See [NECivR 15.1\(b\)](#).

The court has carefully reviewed the record, Petitioner's Motion for Certificate of Appealability (filing no. [28](#)) and Petitioner's Motion to Amend Motion for Certificate of Appealability (filing no. [33](#)). Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find this court's ruling debatable or wrong. For the reasons stated in its December 17, 2009, Memorandum and Order (filing no. [20](#)), the court declines to issue a Certificate of Appealability.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner's Motion for Leave to Appeal IFP (filing no. [32](#)) is granted.
2. Petitioner's Motion to Amend Motion for Certificate of Appealability (filing no. [33](#)) is granted.
3. Petitioner's Motion for Certificate of Appealability (filing no. [28](#)) is denied without prejudice to reassertion before the Eighth Circuit.
4. The Clerk of the court shall provide the Court of Appeals a copy of this Memorandum and Order.

DATED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

*Richard G. Kopf*

United States District Judge

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